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MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic](http://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic)

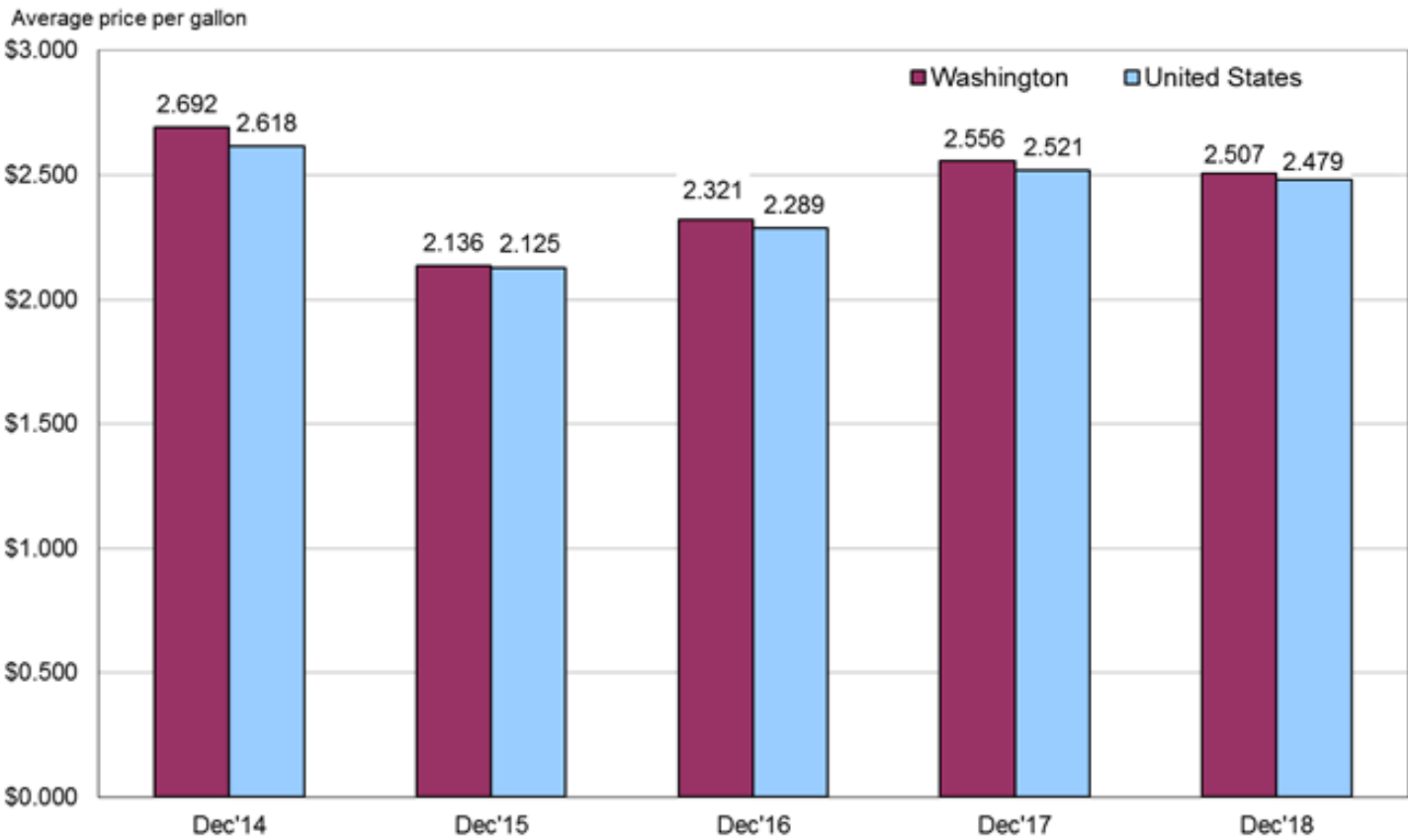
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

## **Average Energy Prices, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria – December 2018**

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.507 a gallon in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria area in December 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that area gasoline prices were 1.9 percent lower than last December when they averaged \$2.556 per gallon. Washington area households paid an average of 12.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in December 2018, close to the 12.7 cents per kWh paid in December 2017. The average price of utility (piped) gas at \$1.156 per therm in December 2018 was down 2.4 percent from \$1.184 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.507 a gallon, Washington area consumers paid close to the national average of \$2.479 for a gallon of gasoline in December 2018. Last December, gasoline prices in Washington were also close to the national average. From 2014 to 2016, prices for a gallon of gasoline in Washington differed from the U.S. average by 2.8 percent or less in December. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria and United States, December 2014–December 2018**

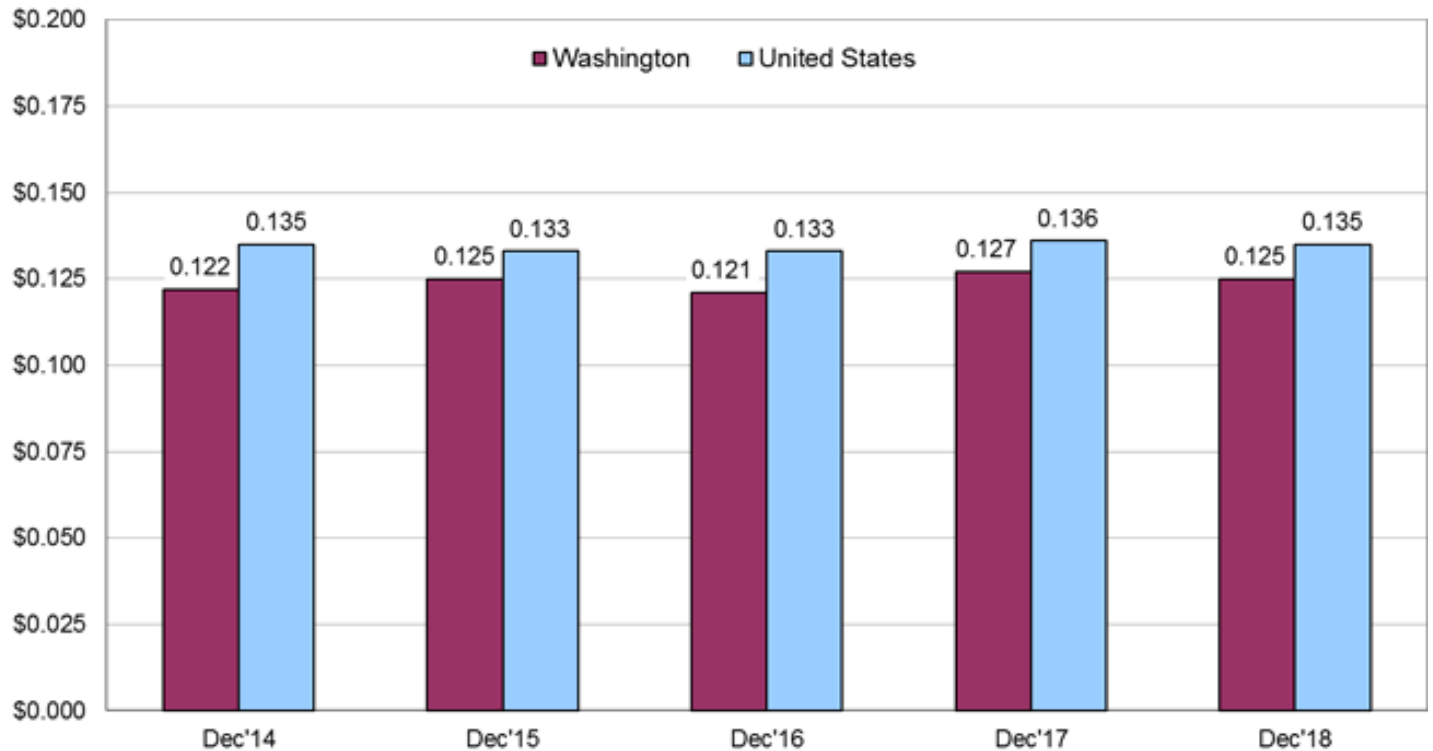


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 12.5 cents per kWh that Washington households paid for electricity in December 2018 was 7.4 percent below the nationwide average of 13.5 cents. Last December, the price per kWh for electricity in Washington was 6.6 percent below the national average. From 2014 to 2016, electricity prices for the Washington area remained at least 6.0 percent below those for the nation in December. (See [chart 2.](#))

**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria and United States, December 2014–December 2018**

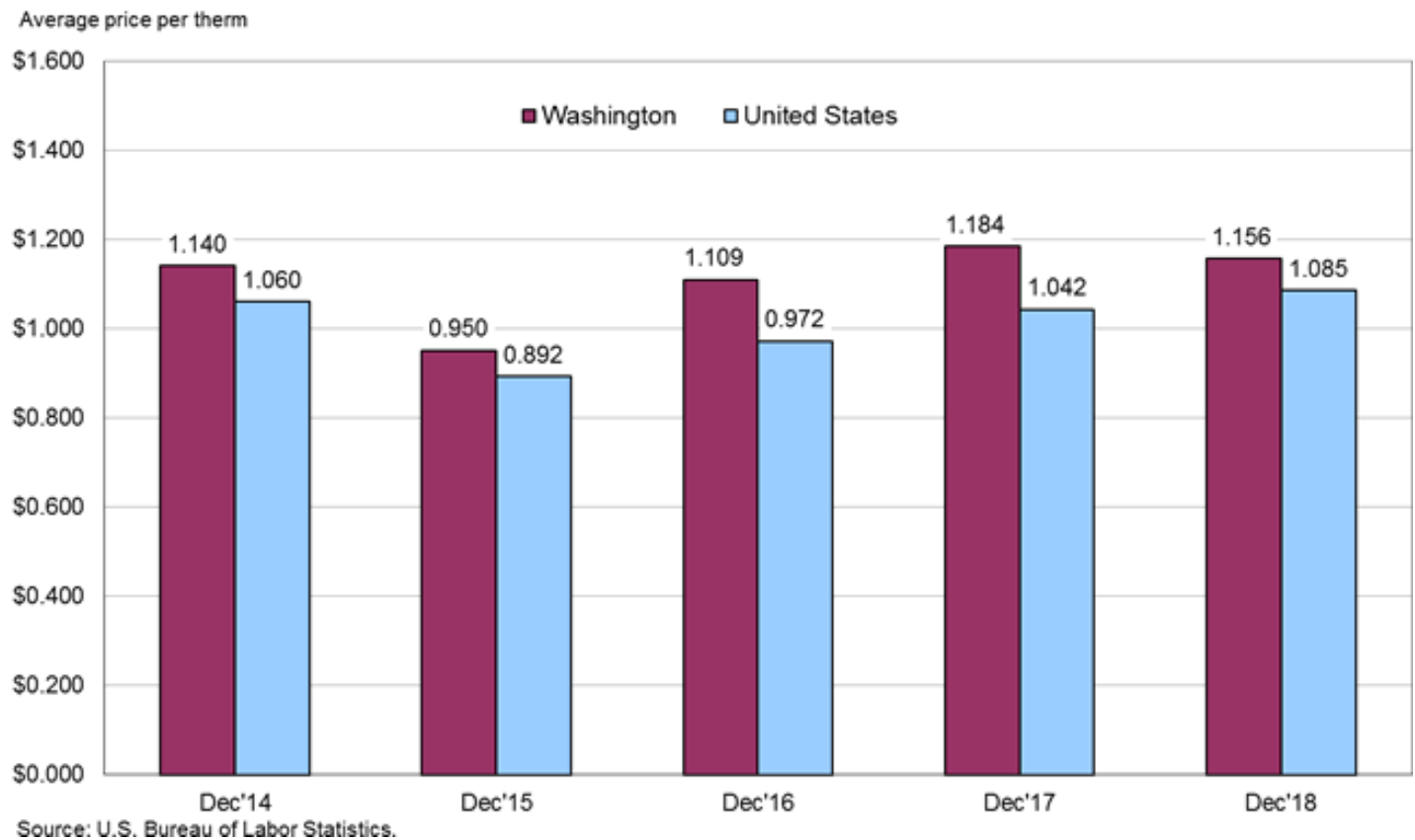
Average price per kilowatt-hour



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Washington area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.156 per therm in December, 6.5 percent above the national average of \$1.085 per therm. From 2014 to 2017, the price for utility (piped) gas in the Washington area ranged from 6.5 to 14.1 percent higher than the national average in December. (See [chart 3](#).)

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria and United States, December 2014–December 2018**



**The Consumer Price Index for January 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

The **Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MA-WV, Core Based Statistical Area** includes the District of Columbia; the counties of Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's in Maryland; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren in Virginia; and the county of Jefferson in West Virginia.

**Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria area, December 2017-December 2018, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	United States	Washington	United States	Washington	United States	Washington
<b>2017</b>						
December .....	\$2.521	\$2.556	\$0.136	\$0.127	\$1.042	\$1.184
<b>2018</b>						
January .....	2.596	2.619	0.135	0.127	1.048	1.186
February .....	2.632	2.636	0.135	0.127	1.077	1.241
March .....	2.631	2.635	0.135	0.125	1.054	1.139
April .....	2.795	2.777	0.134	0.126	1.044	1.159
May .....	2.963	2.917	0.136	0.126	1.050	1.200
June .....	2.970	2.888	0.139	0.130	1.042	1.165
July .....	2.930	2.932	0.139	0.131	1.038	1.088
August .....	2.919	2.921	0.139	0.132	1.055	1.173
September .....	2.930	2.907	0.138	0.132	1.030	0.592
October .....	2.945	2.915	0.136	0.132	1.023	0.918
November .....	2.733	2.715	0.134	0.125	1.020	1.040
December .....	2.479	2.507	0.135	0.125	1.085	1.156